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| Call for proposals | Wednesday, April 10, 2024 |

*This English translation is for information only. Please note that only the French version of this document is legally binding.*

**Feminist Organizations Support Fund (FSOF)**

**Call for Proposals**

**multi-countrIES**

"Gender-based violence and justice”

- CZZ 3645 -

**2024**

The Agence Française de Développement (AFD) proposes to subsidize civil society organizations (CSOs) for the implementation of a financing, reinforcement and structuring mechanism for feminist organizations in partner countries of the France’s development and solidarity Policy. The primary objective is to promote equality between women and men in the countries where AFD operates. Additionally, there is a specific focus, with 60% of the funding allocated to women's civil society organizations on the African continent (refer to the Terms of Reference - Section XII for further details).

**AFD has a grant envelope of €7.840 million for this purpose, divided into two geographical lots of €3.92 million**. The objective of the call for proposals is to identify and select two consortia comprising French, international, and/or national civil society organizations (CSOs) from partner countries. Each selected consortium will be responsible for managing half of the total funding, which amounts to €3.92 million each. This funding is designated for supporting women's organizations in partner countries, aligned with French development and solidarity policy as well as AFD operations.

Selection will be conducted based on the submission of a project note (refer to the provided template in Section III), along with accompanying documents including a financial outline, a logical framework, a timetable, a financial breakdown table within the consortium, an administrative file, and information sheets (Sections IV to XI). These materials must be submitted no later than **Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at 08:00 Paris time**. Submissions should be made through the online application form available on the dedicated page for the call for proposals on the AFD website.

Once the CSO consortia are selected, they will be invited to proceed with the appraisal process, collaborating closely with the AFD project team leaders. The next step involves submitting a final project note. This final proposal should incorporate any necessary adjustments resulting from discussions with the designated AFD project team leaders. Upon completion, the proposal will be submitted to AFD's project approval bodies.

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| **Full information on the call for proposals "Gender-based violence and justice" and the call for proposals file to download are available on the dedicated page of AFD's website:**  <https://www.afd.fr/fr/appel-projets-violences-basees-sur-le-genre-et-justice>  **The call for proposals can be downloaded as of Wednesday, April 10, 2024.** |

The call for proposals is also published on the AFD calls for projects website (<https://www.afd.fr/fr/appels-projets>) and the AFD FSOF website [(](https://www.afd.fr/fr/fonds-de-soutien-aux-organisations-feministes-fsof)https://www.afd.fr/fr/fonds-de-soutien-aux-organizations-feministes-fsof).

For any additional information, applicants should submit their questions no later than **Thursday, April 25, 2024; at 8 a.m. Paris time, using the contact form only on the page dedicated to the call for proposals on the AFD website** ("CONTACT" tab). All the answers to the questions sent will be published on the "FAQ" tab (Frequently Asked Questions), at the latest within the next 5 working days.

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1. GENERAL FRAMEWORK DEFINED BY AFD

Article 1. General terms and conditions

**1.1** The objective of the *"Gender-based violence and justice"* call for proposals ("the Call") is to finance an intermediated fund managed by associations:

The objective of the "Gender-based violence and justice" call for proposals ("the Call") is to provide financial support for an intermediated fund managed by associations meeting the following criteria:

* The associations may be French and/or international and/or national organizations from developing countries, operating in consortia (referred to as "the Consortium" or "the Consortia"). These organizations should collaborate with various entities, particularly local organizations.
* Organizations eligible for funding should align with the definition provided in the FSOF's 2020-2022 Strategic and Accountability Framework, which describes feminist civil society organizations as entities aiming to promote gender equality and initiate enduring changes in gender-based social relations. These organizations primarily focus on defending and advocating for the effective rights and empowerment of women and girls.
* Eligible organizations should demonstrate expertise in preventing and addressing gender-based violence, especially in the realm of justice. They should have a track record of leading transformative initiatives on gender, utilizing a Human Rights-Based and inclusive approach that considers various dimensions of inequality.
* Eligible organizations should have prior experience in collaborating with feminist civil society organizations, facilitating networking, and funding their initiatives. They should also possess the ability to establish effective communication channels with local and community-based CSOs in diverse contexts.
* Qualified organizations should demonstrate proficiency in capacity-building within communities and civil society organizations, as well as the identification of best practices. They should have previous experience in activities such as action research, capitalization, advocacy, and political action, with a particular focus on gender-based violence management, especially in judicial and legal domains.
* Eligible organizations should possess in-depth knowledge of the ecosystems in the countries where they operate. They should also demonstrate proven administrative and financial management skills across various geographical areas.
* Organizations should exhibit operational skills in managing multi-stakeholder projects, including those in remote areas.

This call is open to not-for-profit organizations, national and international civil society organizations (CSOs) from all countries in the world.

The selection committee will pay particular attention to the place and role of local feminist CSOs within the consortia, which will form an evaluation criterion.

The members of each consortia will have to propose a modus operandi that will enable France to honor its international commitments regarding the localization of aid, and demonstrate this in their project and budget proposals.

The lead organization of each consortium must demonstrate a presence in at least one of the countries in the targeted geographical area, and each consortium must ensure the geographical coverage of the project.

All contracts between the consortium and implementing structures in beneficiary countries outside the consortium will be considered as service provision and will be subject to [AFD's Guidelines for Procurement in Foreign Countries](https://www.afd.fr/fr/ressources/directives-pour-la-passation-des-marches-finances-par-l-afd-dans-les-etats-etrangers). In the interests of efficient project management, tenderers are nevertheless invited not to make excessive use of implementation services. The collaboration mechanisms must be clearly detailed in the project proposals and the procurement procedures applied will be sent to the AFD during appraisal.

**1.2** The objective of the grant is to finance committed feminist civil society organizations in partner countries(referred to as "recipient CSOs" or "local feminist CSOs") of the French development and solidarity policy and their actions to prevent and combat gender-based violence (GBV).

**1.3** The purpose of this Call for Proposals is to provide €7.840 million in grant funding for an operational project of the intermediated fund type (see ToR in section XII).

**1.4** The project must be carried out in the partner countries of France's development and international solidarity policy in which AFD has a mandate to operate[[1]](#footnote-1), with the following breakdown:

* **1 African batch** with a budget of €3.92m;
* **1 Latin America batch** with a budget of €3.92m.

**Each consortium must cover a maximum/minimum of 4 countries by geographical area, including at least 2 of the countries pre-identified by AFD by geographical area:**

* **Africa:** Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Tanzania;
* **Latin America**: Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru.

**One consortium will be selected per geographical area.**

Each consortium is required to showcase geographical consistency in its selection of countries for project implementation. The chosen geographical focus must be justified adequately, as it will serve as an evaluation criterion.

For information purposes only, the breakdown of AFD's Regional Directorates (RDs) is given below:

- Africa :

* North Africa Regional Department (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt)
* Central Africa Regional Department (DRC, Congo, Gabon, Cameroon, Sao Tomé and Principe and Equatorial Guinea)
* East Africa DR (Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Djibouti, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan)
* Southern Africa DR (Mozambique, Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe)
* Gulf of Guinea (Benin, Togo, Guinea, Nigeria, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone)

- East :

* Near and Middle East (Palestinian Territories, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon)
* South Asia (Pakistan, Sri-Lanka, Bangladesh)
* South East Asia (Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Philippines, Thailand)
* DR Eurasia (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Northern Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Uzbekistan)

- Latin America:

* Andes (Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia)
* Southern Cone (Argentina, Brazil)
* Central America (Cuba, Costa Rica, Mexico)

- 3 Oceans :

* Atlantic Ocean (French Guiana, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Suriname)
* Indian Ocean (Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius)
* Pacific Ocean (Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Federated Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna)

Each of the consortia will provide a proposal detailing the mechanism for selecting and financing the recipients of the funds in each country, as well as the partnership approach envisioned and the roles and responsibilities of each of the consortia members.

As part of the proposal, the consortia are expected to identify a coordination mechanism (i) between the target countries and (ii) between the two geographical areas (inter-batch dynamic); a process for exchanging practices between countries and between geographical areas will be promoted. We welcome any proposals on this subject. In particular, the CSO leading the consortium must provide the means to travel at least once during the project to each of the countries in the batch as well as in the other region targeted by the call for projects.

**1.5** Each lead organization may submit only one proposal. However, participation as a member in several lots is possible. A CSO may therefore be the lead partner in one geographical area and a partner in the other geographical area. In this case, AFD will pay particular attention to the human resources proposed.

Article 2. Method of operation

**2.1** Under the Call for Proposals, AFD aims to contribute to the financing of expenditure required to carry out a project designed and defined by a structure for a maximum duration of 48 months.

**2.2** No co-financing is requested under this call for proposals.

**2.3** The consortia are encouraged, as far as possible, to develop their proposals in consultation with national stakeholders in the countries concerned by the Call.

**2.4** The Call may not (i) finance expenditure not directly linked to the project, (ii) finance, for the same structure, services already provided for in other projects financed by the AFD, (iii) services that are already being financed by sources other than AFD.

**2.5** Administrative and structural costs may not exceed 12% of the amount of the project, including head office staff costs. The remaining portion of the funding will be allocated to various purposes including: finance human resources specific to the project, the operational management of the consortium, studies, capacity-building activities and exchanges of practice, as well as the direct financing, up to 60%, of the structures and projects of the CSOs receiving the funds (see budget model and explanatory note in the annex).

Article 3. Presentation of projects

**3.1** Selection is based on the submission of the following documents: a project brief (see model in section III), a financial outline (see section IV), an administrative file and information sheets (section V) **to be submitted no later than Wednesday, June 5, 2024; at 8 a.m. Paris time.**

**3.2** For the selected proposal, each consortium will then be invited to continue the appraisal, in close contact with the AFD Project Team Leaders, and will submit a final project note, validated by all parties. This final and complete proposal must include any elements arising from a dialogue with the designated AFD Project Team Managers. On this basis, the Project Team Managers will submit the project to the AFD's approval bodies.

Article 4. Audit, reporting, evaluation and capitalization

**4.1** Tenderers are required to incorporate external audits in their proposals. The selected consortium will engage an audit firm, whose selection procedures and final approval will be subject to AFD's non-objection. This firm will conduct essential checks to ensure the proper utilization of project funds, including those managed by the CSOs receiving the funds. The audit contract will be financed within the project framework. It is recommended that between 1 and 2% of the budget be dedicated to the audit.

**4.2** Tenderers must also include in their proposal a mechanism for conducting due diligence on the local CSOs. This due diligence aims to prevent AFD funding from being used for money laundering or terrorist activities (LCB-FT due diligence). The due diligence process may be conducted internally by the consortium, provided that the system established by the consortium meets AFD's satisfaction. Alternatively, the due diligence process may be outsourced to external entities.

**4.3** As part of the project requirements, both mid-term and final evaluations must be conducted, and the associated costs must be covered as part of the project budget. AFD retains the prerogative to conduct an external evaluation at any point during the project's duration using its own financial resources.

**4.4** AFD encourages the elaboration of a capitalization programme and a communication programme in order to contribute on the one hand to the dissemination of good practices and on the other hand to good communication around the project (with an half-yearly newsletter for example). 2% of each consortia's total budget must be allocated to cross-cutting capitalization activities (between the two geographical areas). Bidders are invited to take into account the highly anticipated nature and high-level monitoring of the project and its achievements, which may result in a particular demand for communication, the necessary means of which must be included in the tender. The communication mechanism will take into account security issues and will ensure that the partners and beneficiaries of the project are not put at risk.

Article 5. Contract currency and payment currencies

**5.1** The organizations must draw up their proposals in euros, which is the currency of the funding agreement. The budget must be formulated to include all taxes and lump sums, firm and non-revisable.

Article 6. Knowledge of the locations and conditions of the call for initiatives

**6.1** By submitting their proposals, structures are deemed:

* Have read and accepted the terms and conditions of the call for proposals described herein;
* Have the ability to manage a programme whose specific features and issues are described in the Call;
* Have a perfect knowledge of the nature and scope of the projects to be carried out, local working conditions and all the difficulties involved;
* Have read the general terms and conditions and all the documents to be completed and administrative documents to be provided.

Article 7. Opening of proposals and selection committee

**7.1** Bids will be opened at AFD headquarters in Paris by a committee composed of the Project Team Managers of the Governance (GOV) and Health and Social Protection (SAN) Divisions as well as qualified internal persons.

**7.2** Tenders will be selected by a selection committee, which will be composed of the Project Team Managers of the Governance (GOV) and Health and Social Protection (SAN) Divisions, a representative of the Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations Division (DPA/CSO), a representative of the Social Link Unit (CLS) and a representative of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE/DGM/DDD/HUMA). The scoring grid and the bids selected following the opening of bids will be sent in advance to all the members of the committee.

**7.3** A selection report will be drawn up by the committee. For each project analyzed, it will include assessment criteria justifying the selection or otherwise of the project, which may be communicated to the organizations.

Article 8. Clarification of proposals

**8.1** In order to facilitate the examination, evaluation and comparison of proposals, the Selection Committee may ask structures for clarification of their proposal.

Article 9. Determination of conformity of proposals

**9.1** The lead organization of each consortium must demonstrate its capacity to implement large-scale projects; the project submitted must not represent more than 70% of the consortium lead organization’s annual resources over the last 3 certified financial years. The consortium lead organization must therefore have an average annual budget of at least €1.4m for this 4-year project. This threshold does not apply to consortium members.

**9.2** The Commission may eliminate proposals from structures that clearly do not have the human and financial capacity to implement a project in the country concerned.

Article 10: Evaluation and ranking of proposals

**10.1** The proposal selection committee will evaluate and compare the proposals that have been found to comply with the stipulated provisions.

**10.2** Proposals at the selection stage will be scored out of 100 points according to the following scale**:**

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| **Assessment criteria** | **Points** |
| **Initial diagnosis (10)** | |
| - Knowledge of the region/countries covered by the geographical focus proposed for the project :  => the ecosystem of feminist movements and organizations, in particular those working on i) prevention, advocacy and awareness-raising (particularly with regard to changing gender norms and stereotypes) on GBV and access to rights, and ii) holistic support for victims (medical, psychological, socio-economic) with particular attention paid to access to legal and justice services;  => the dynamics and issues surrounding transformational measures, in terms of a Human Rights-Based approach, particularly in the field of preventing and combating GBV and based on an inclusive approach that takes account of multidimensional factors of inequality  - Knowledge of the feminist organizations’ operating environment (legal recognition, national policies, constraints and difficulties, perception by influencers)  - Understanding the main issues involved in achieving gender equality through work to combat GBV, particularly in the legal and jurisdictional spheres, in addition to holistic care for victims, based on a multidimensional approach to inequalities | 10 |
| **Positioning of lead CSO and consortium members (15)** | |
| - Presentation of the interventions of the lead CSO and its partners in the countries of intervention  - The consortium's presence in the target countries, and its ability to expand to other locations targeted by the project if necessary.  - Local roots and the ability to conduct a local dialogue with all project stakeholders  - Established partnerships and previous experience with local feminist CSOs in the target countries, national authorities and various players in the sector, particularly in the justice sector  - Outlook for operations in the coming years (excluding AFD financing)  - The consortium's expertise and proven track record in the various fields covered by the call for proposals:  => Thematic expertise on the prevention and protection of victims of GBV, particularly through legal assistance, based on a multidimensional approach to inequalities;  => On capacity building for CSOs, particularly feminist CSOs, expertise in community communication and social change approaches;  => Experience and skills in capitalization (intellectual production and organization of seminars to share knowledge);  => Complementarity between the respective expertise of the different organizations in the consortium on the theme;  => Detailed knowledge of the ecosystems in the proposed countries of operation  - Donor experience in managing projects of a similar scale | 15 |
| **Presentation of the project (45)** | |
| **Geographic targeting**  - Relevance of the project's thematic and geographical coverage to the needs and priority issues identified in the target areas  - Relevance of the project's coverage with regard to the actions of other players and the consortium's added value  - Involvement of local communities and young people in the project  - Criterion to be prioritized: very good understanding of the issues of safe exposure of the CSO members working on this subject (from the household and family, the community or from third parties) and a dedicated system adapted to the context (existing policy/charter/code of conduct and methodology or to be developed by the consortium leader).  - Additional criterion to be prioritized: very good understanding of the issues of safe exposure (from the home, the community or third parties) for members of CSOs working on this subject and of the solutions to be provided depending on the context  - Additional criterion to be: proposal for a dynamic exchange of practices and capitalization of experience between the geographical areas of intervention. | 10 |
| **Intervention logic**  - Clear presentation of the intervention logic and the chosen methodology  - Description of the overall framework of the theory of change in order to contribute to sustainable social change, and possible geographical variations  - Detailed presentation of activities and justification of their relevance to the diagnosis and needs identified  - Presentation of the methodology that will be used to assess and manage the E&S risks associated with the projects to be funded, particularly in terms of security risks for members of local CSOs  - General schedule of activities  - Relevance of the proposal detailing the mechanism for selecting and funding local feminist CSOs in the countries of intervention  - Methodology for the overall support process (in-depth assessment phase, implementation of various activities, evaluation, etc.) with details of the methodologies for supporting local CSOs and women's movements, strategies for ensuring the sustainability of the CSOs supported and links with national authorities and international players. | 25 |
| **Capitalization**  - Relevance of the system for exchanging practices, capitalizing on experience, research-action, communication, advocacy and political influence-action  - Integration of a reinforced monitoring and evaluation system | 10 |
| **Resources deployed (30)** | |
| **Budget**  - Proportion of the budget redistributed directly to women's organisations and movements: minimum 60% (eliminatory criterion)  - Proportion of the budget allocated to indirect support and operating costs in relation to the total project budget: maximum 12%.  - Relevance of the budget to geographical and operational areas    - Relevance of the mechanism for ensuring that funding allocated to project promoters is properly implemented | 15 |
| **Project team**  - Provisional composition of the project team (dedicated team): qualifications and skills of the personnel involved in the project (see list in Article 1: General Clauses and Conditions and V. Terms of reference: Expertise to be mobilized)  - Mobilization of existing consortium teams (supervision and/or backstopping)  - Ability to conduct a dialogue with AFD representatives locally and in Paris, as well as with project stakeholders and local authorities | 5 |
| **Consortium**  - Organization of the consortium (leadership, coordination, steering and internal governance, complementarity of the players in the consortium, consistency of interventions, history of the partnership, clarity of role sharing, etc.).  - Involvement of local CSOs and youth organizations in the development, steering and implementation of the project  - The consortium's ability to coordinate and work with all stakeholders | 10 |

Tenderers are asked to provide a description of the responsibilities of the members of the team that will carry out the project within the consortium in the body of their tender, as well as the distribution of roles between the members of the consortium, and details of the budget for coordination activities. Tenderers must guarantee the qualifications and skills of the personnel involved in the project as defined in their tender.

Article 11. AFD's right to reject any proposal

1. AFD reserves the right to reject any proposal, to cancel the call for proposals procedure as long as AFD has not awarded the grant(s). This decision can be made without incurring any liability towards the organizations involved and without the obligation to provide reasons for the rejection or cancellation.

Article 12: Project appraisal

1. Once the project has been selected, the Project Team Leaders appraise it in the context of a dialogue with the consortium. The consortium is free to decide whether or not to incorporate the suggestions, and the AFD is free not to pursue the appraisal of the proposal. The following elements, among others, may constitute a reason for not validating the final proposal:

* Refusal to take part in a dialogue with the AFD's project team leaders that aims at enriching the proposal,
* Refusal to give reasons for not incorporating amendments suggested by project team leaders,

Article 13. Confidentiality

1. No information relating to the examination, clarification, evaluation, comparison of proposals and recommendations concerning the award of the grant(s) may be divulged to the submitting organizations or to any other person outside the examination and evaluation procedure, after the opening of the bids and until the announcement of the award of the grant(s) to the successful organizations.
2. Any attempt by a bidding structure to influence the Commission during the procedure for examining, evaluating and comparing proposals will lead to the rejection of that structure's proposal.

Article 14. Information on the selection process

1. Each organization selected by the selection committee will be informed by e-mail, detailing the timetable for the appraisal and serve as a basis for dialogue.

Article 15: Information on the grant and signature of the financing agreement

1. The project team leaders will send a letter to the beneficiary of the grant informing it that the grant has been awarded, followed by the draft funding agreement for approval before signature.
2. SELECTION AND FINAL APPROVAL OF PROPOSALS

The process leading to the financing agreement is carried out in two stages:

1. selection on the basis of a project note (section III), a financial outline (section IV), a submission letter (section V), a logical framework (section VI), a timetable (section VII), the information sheets for the applicant and the consortium structures, where applicable (sections VIII and IX), the table of financial flows within the consortium (if applicable, section X) and the administrative file (section XI) **to be submitted no later than Wednesday, June 5, 2024; at 8 a.m. Paris time** (date of arrival serving as proof) on the page dedicated to the call for proposals on the AFD website ("SUBMIT A PROJECT" tab). An automatic email acknowledging receipt will be sent to consortia for which the proposal has been received.

If the consortium has sent its proposal on time but has not received an email acknowledging receipt, it is the consortium's responsibility to notify AFD no later than 12 hours after the closing time of the call for proposals and to provide proof that the proposal was sent before the closing date.

If the files uploaded to the AFD website exceed the maximum size of 9 Megabytes (MB) per file, they must be shared via a file exchange platform.

1. Continued dialogue with the AFD project team, enabling the proposal to be enriched and a final project note to be proposed, which will serve as a basis for the project team managers to submit the competition to AFD's approval bodies.

Selection of proposals

Selection on the basis of a project brief and an administrative file.

To submit a project, each supporting structure must fill in the online application form, making sure to provide all the information requested ("SUBMIT A PROJECT" tab on the page dedicated to the call for proposals on the AFD website).

Its proposal in accordance with the model project note, signed electronically by a person authorized to apply for funding for the structure;

All the operational and administrative documents requested.

**Proposals must be written in French, English or Spanish.** However, if the initial proposal is written in English or Spanish, **the consortium will have to agree to continue the appraisal and contractualization of the project in French only.**

Preparation and final validation of proposals

As soon as it receives notification that its project has been selected the consortium will review the elements of its proposal that require clarification or adjustment, on the basis of discussions with AFD, in order to produce a final proposal, contained in a revised final project note, the elements of which will be presented to AFD's decision-making bodies.

1. PROJECT PRESENTATION NOTE

**Deadline for receipt of project notes: Wednesday, June 5, 2024; at 8 a.m. Paris time** **(date of arrival serving as proof).**

**To be completed in Word format, Roboto Light 10 font, respecting the format below, and with a maximum of 20 pages for the body text, excluding appendices.**

***"Name of call for proposals***

***Call for FSOF 2024 projects Gender-based violence and justice***

1. Context
2. Presentation of the project context and challenges
3. Project location and relevance to the region and countries targeted

*Explain the choice of areas of intervention with regard to (i) the needs of the organizations, public policies and levels of equality in the target areas, (ii) national policies/strategies in the field concerned by the Call for proposals, (iii) the context in the target region and target countries and the role played by CSOs and authorities, (iv) the needs of the populations, (v) the interventions of other actors in the region...*

1. Presentation of bidders
2. Presentation of bidders

*Presentation of the partners (international, national, local), the contributions of each and their respective expertise, the complementary nature and terms of the partnership, management and governance, their financial situation (annual turnover) and the distribution of the budget between the partners.*

1. Experience of structures in the target countries and region
2. Partnerships with local public bodies (local authorities), national authorities or regional organizations
3. General and specific objectives of the project
4. Intervention logic
5. Overall framework of the proposed theory of change
6. Project content
7. Presentation of target groups
8. Methodology for the overall process of supporting local feminist CSOs
9. A system for sharing practices, capitalising on experience, research-action and communication
10. Description of components
11. Stakeholders, operating procedures and fiduciary risk management

*Identify the Beneficiary (the Beneficiary is the entity that carries out the project on its behalf. It is the contracting authority) and the institutional/organizational, fiduciary and contractual framework with the other members of the consortium, where applicable, and with the CSOs in the South that will benefit from the delegated funds.*

*A detailed and exhaustive description of the financial modus operandi between the lead CSO and the other members of the consortium must be set out here:*

* *Bank accounts: indicate which CSO lead account the funds will be paid into*
* *Methods of disbursing funds to other consortium members and to CSOs receiving funds if they are already identified or the methodology used to identify them, location and name of bank accounts)*

*This section must also explain the reporting arrangements envisaged at AFD level, within the consortium and with the CSOs receiving the funds.*

*Fiduciary risk management: also indicate the procedures for awarding contracts and the procedures for internal and external control (external audit).*

1. Sustainability of the project

*Technical sustainability (transfer of skills locally, use and management of equipment, etc.), Social and institutional sustainability: strategy for the empowerment of the partner(s), Economic and financial sustainability: strategy for the economic and financial viability of the project partner(s), Institutional sustainability: strategy for building the capacity of public players, institutionalisation of new menstrual health and hygiene standards.*

1. Budget
2. Key elements of the proposed budget

*Submit a budget narrative in Excel format*

1. Achievements, results and expected impact of the project
2. Taking into account AFD's cross-cutting approaches (gender, climate, environment, etc.) and the project's contribution to sustainable development issues:

*AFD assesses the contribution made by projects to sustainable development issues through an analysis that includes "reducing gender inequalities", "climate change resilience, biodiversity conservation and natural resource management", "sustainable growth and a resilient economy", "social well-being and reducing social imbalances", "project sustainability and governance framework".*

*This section will explain how the project will have an impact on the relevant dimensions listed below (the project does not necessarily have to contribute to all the dimensions) and how it will not have a negative impact in this respect.*

1. Expected results, impact
2. Monitoring, evaluation and indicators

*Briefly present the project's monitoring and evaluation system, specifying the actors involved and their role in producing, transmitting or analysing the information. The system must include indicators of resources, outputs, results and impact that provide information on the achievement of the project's objectives, as summarised in the logical framework.*

*Indicate the capacity to conduct a dialogue with local authorities, AFD Paris and the agencies.*

1. Capitalization

*Indicate, in particular, the transversal capitalization activities planned within the geographical batch and between batches.*

1. Risk assessment
2. Risks and measures planned to deal with them

*Set out the risks to be considered, whether contextual (political, economic, social, security and environmental framework, etc) or operational (technical, financial, partnership, etc), as well as the measures envisaged to deal with them.*

1. Project timetable

*Indicate duration, start date, end date and specify the various phases.*

1. FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK (DETAILED BUDGET)

Complete the Excel spreadsheet attached to the Call for proposals and sign it, using the budget information leaflet attached to the application.

It should be noted that the budget will have to take account of the distribution of the management costs envelope within the consortium.

1. THE SUBMISSION LETTER

**SUBMISSION OF A PROJECT PROPOSAL**

To

Mr. Director of the French Development Agency

Mr. Director,

I (we), the undersigned, first name(s), surname(s) ........, acting in the capacity of .....(function(s)) in the name and on behalf of ....................(company name and address of the tenderer or members of the consortium), having taken note of all the documents contained or mentioned in this call for initiatives and having assessed the nature of this call for initiatives from my (our) point of view and under my (our) responsibility,

Submit, with my (our) signature, the following project proposal with budget attached,

I (we) submit and commit myself (ourself) jointly and in solidarity, the structure ................... acting as the representative and pilot of the grouping, to carry out the project in accordance with the proposal formulated in our project and with the costs that I (we) have established myself (ourselves), which costs show the amount of the financing requested in Euros at :

AMOUNT INCLUDING ALL TAXES AND DUTIES:.............................................(amount in figures and letters) Euros, at the economic conditions of the month of the deadline authorized for the delivery of my (our) proposal, that is .................................

I (we) recognize that AFD is not obligated to follow-up on any of the proposals it receives.

I affirm, under penalty of automatic termination, that I (and the structure or group of structures for which I act) are not subject to legal prohibitions either in France, or in the State(s) where my association(s) is (are) based, or in the proposed country of intervention.

Done at ....................., on .........................

Signature

*The signatory must enclose the deed delegating him/her the power to bind his/her association. In the case of a temporary grouping of associations, attach the deed of incorporation of the grouping and designating the leader and representative.*

1. THE LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Template

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Intervention logic** | **Objectively verifiable and quantified indicators if possible** | **Sources and means of verification** |
| **Overall objective** | *What is the overall objective(s) to which the action will contribute?* | *What is the key indicator related to this overall objective(s)?* | *What are the sources of information for this indicator?* |
| **Specific objective(s)**  **(and specific sub-objectives)** | *What specific objectives should the action achieve as a contribution to the overall objective(s)?* | *What indicators show, in detail, that the objectives of the action are being achieved?* | *What sources of information exist and can be gathered? What are the methods for obtaining this information?* |
| **Expected results** | *Outcomes are the accomplishments that will lead to the achievement of the specific objective. What are the expected results (number these results)?* | *What indicators can be used to verify and measure that the action is achieving the expected results?* | *What are the sources of information for these indicators?* |
| **Activities to be developed** | *What are the key activities to be implemented, and in what order, in order to produce the expected results? (Group the activities by results)* | *Resources: What resources are required to implement these activities, e.g. personnel, equipment, training, studies, supplies, operational facilities, etc.?* | *What are the sources of information on the progress of the action? Costs: What are the costs of the action? their nature? (Detail in the budget of the action)* |

1. ACTIVITY TIMETABLE (IN EXCEL, FREE TEMPLATE)

In Excel, free template (a standard template is attached).

1. THE INFORMATION SHEET ON THE PROJECT PROMOTER

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Full name of legal entity:** |  |
| **Acronym:** |  |
| **Mailing address:**  (to which all correspondence concerning this project should be sent) |  |
| **Location of the head office**: (if different from the mailing address) |  |
| **Phone:** |  |
| **Email address:** |  |
| **Website :** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Corporate purpose:** |  |
| **Area(s) of operation:** |  |
| **Sector(s) of intervention :** |  |
| **Existence of a strategic document validated at the GA[[2]](#footnote-2) :** |  |
| **Main financing and partnerships established between the structure and AFD over the last 3 years.** (specify the purpose, the amount of financing and the AFD department concerned) [*if applicable]* |  |
| **Main financing and partnerships established between the structure and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs over the last 3 years.** (specify the purpose, the amount of funding and the department of the MAEDI concerned) [*if applicable]* |  |
| **Membership in collectives, networks, platforms :** |  |
| **Main publications of the structure :** |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Contact person(s) for this project** | **Name** | **Phone** | **E-mail address** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Full name of the legal representative :** |  | | |
| **Name, first name and position of the person responsible for this application for co-financing[[3]](#footnote-3) :** |  | | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Creation date:** | |  | | | |
| **Legal status :** | |  | | | |
| **The references of the declaration to the Prefecture or other body adapted to the legal status of the structure:** | | | | | |
| N° |  | Date |  | Department |  |
| **The date of publication in the Official Journal or other register adapted to the legal status of the structure:** | |  | | | |
| **If applicable, the date of recognition of public utility:** | |  | | | |
| **If applicable, the date of approval by a ministry, which :** | |  | | | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Full name of the legal representative :** |  |
| **In the case of a CSO, Full name of the General Secretary :** |  |
| **In the case of a CSO, Full name of the treasurer :** |  |
| **Number of members of the Board of Directors or equivalent governance body[[4]](#footnote-4) :** |  |
| **Does it include an agent of the French Development Agency? :**  if yes, indicate his name and function |  |
| **Are any of its officers and members of its Board of Directors or equivalent governance body politically exposed persons[[5]](#footnote-5) ? :**  if yes, indicate his name and function |  |
| **Date of the General Assembly at which the member(s) of the current Board of Directors or its equivalent governance body and the Executive Committee were elected, in the case of a CSO:** |  |
| **Expiry date of the mandates of these members :** |  |
| **Estimated date of the next general meeting:** |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Staffing at the structure's headquarters:** | Total (FTEs )[[6]](#footnote-6) | Full time | Part-time |
| Employee(s) |  |  |  |
| Volunteer(s) [if applicable] |  |  |  |
| Total |  |  |  |
| **Workforce abroad :** | Total (FTE) | Full time | Part-time |
| Expatriate employee(s) |  |  |  |
| Local employee(s) |  |  |  |
| Volunteer(s) [if applicable] |  |  |  |
| Volunteer(s) [if applicable] |  |  |  |
| Total |  |  |  |

**Breakdown of the structure's budgetary expenses over the last three years (for lead CSOs only)**

**Overall budget of the structure (all activities combined)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ORGANIZATION'S BUDGET *Please complete the last 3 years***  ***\*If you do not have the budget for the year N-1, please indicate the projected budget and specify it*** | **20..** | **20..** | **20..** |
| Total income (income statement) - in €) |  |  |  |
| What percentage of your global budget is dedicated to international solidarity activities in France and abroad (this may be an estimate) | % | % | % |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NET INCOME (last 3 years)** | **20..** | **20..** | **20..** |
| Surplus / Deficit (-) |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **BALANCE SHEET (last 3 years certified)** | **20..** | **20..** | **20..** |
| Associative funds (equity and other associative funds) |  |  |  |

**date and signature**

**Presentation of the organization's overall financial resources over the last three years (for lead CSOs only)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Total CSO revenue [[7]](#footnote-7)** | **Of which public resources**[[8]](#footnote-8) | | **of total revenue** | **Of which private resources[[9]](#footnote-9)** | | **of total revenue** |
| **2020** |  | **Total amount :** |  |  | **Total amount :** |  |  |
| Of which AFD : |  |  | Of which contributor(s) to more than 15% of the CSO's total budget[[10]](#footnote-10) :  - specify name and amount |  |  |
| Of which other central ministries : |  |  |
| **2021** |  | **Total amount :** |  |  | **Total amount :** |  |  |
| Of which AFD : |  |  | Of which contributor(s) to more than 15% of the CSO's total budget8 :  - specify name and amount  - specify name and amount |  |  |
| Of which other central ministries : |  |  |
| **2022** |  | **Total amount :** |  |  | **Total amount :** |  |  |
| Of which AFD : |  |  | Of which contributor(s) to more than 15% of the CSO's total budget8 :  - specify name and amount |  |  |

1. THE PARTNER INFORMATION SHEET

***To be completed for each partner involved in the project***

Specify the total number of partners involved in the project :

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Full name of legal entity :** |  |
| **Acronym :** |  |
| **Postal address:** |  |
| **Location of registered office**: (if different from postal address) |  |
| **Telephone :** |  |
| **E-mail address :** |  |
| **Website :** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Contact person(s) for this project :** |  |
| **Full name of legal representative :** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date of creation :** |  |
| **Legal status :**  (Please attach the certificate of registration or equivalent to the technical file. If the structure is informal, please state this here). |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Number of members of the Board of Directors or equivalent governance body :** |  |
| **List of members of the Board of Directors or equivalent governance body :** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Corporate purpose:** |  |
| **Main areas of activity :** |  |
| **Human resources :** |  |
| **In the case of a CSO, total annual budget in euros:** |  |
| **In the case of a CSO, Main donors :** |  |
| **In the case of a CSO, membership of networks, federations, collectives, etc. :** |  |
| **History and nature of cooperation with the partner(s):** institutional and contractual links |  |
| **Role and involvement in the preparation of the proposed project :** |  |
| **Role and involvement in the implementation of the proposed project :** |  |
| **Experience of similar actions in relation to its role in the implementation of the proposed action:** |  |
| **How does the project add value to your traditional activities?** |  |
| **How will you take ownership of the project?** |  |

**date and signature**

1. TABLE OF RETROCESSIONS

**List the consortium partners and indicate, for each of them, the amount of funds they will manage as part of the project.**

**For each of them, please attach the partner information sheet (see Appendix IX above).**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **FULL name of CORPORATE BODY**  **(AND scroll down the acronym)** | **SIGLE**  **(only IF USED)** | **Estimated amount** |
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**date and signature**

1. THE ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

List of documents to be submitted by the bidding structure and, if applicable, for each member of the consortium that will receive payments directly from AFD:

* Copy of the signed articles of association ;
* Copy of the declaration of registration in the Prefecture and/or in any relevant Register (i.e. Trade and Companies Register, publication in the Official Journal etc.) or equivalent according to the regulations of the country in which the structure has its headquarters;
* Dated list and contact information of the members of the Board of Directors or equivalent, of the Bureau in the case of a CSO and of the principal officers including the legal representative, including the date of the last elections, if applicable;
* Organization chart dated and signed by the legal representative ;
* Activity reports for the last three years;
* Last minutes of the General Assembly or at least the agenda of the last General Assembly and the main resolutions;
* Balance sheets and operating accounts for the last three years, certified and audited (with annexes and explanatory notes), validated by the General Assembly, showing the origin (public or private) of financial resources in the case of a CSO;
* Except for CSOs, a shareholding diagram certified by a legal representative showing the legal entities and/or natural persons holding directly and/or indirectly and/or crosswise at least 5% of the capital or voting rights of the bidding structure;
* In the case of a CSO, a provisional budget for the current fiscal year, overall and in the country (ies) of implementation of the project, showing the list of public funding envisaged, indicating whether they are requested or acquired, as validated by the General Assembly, and signed;
* In the case of a CSO, list of private funders contributing more than 5% of the last budget of the structure validated by the General Assembly and/or more than 5% of the budget of the project presented and the composition of their Board of Directors;

Identification of the beneficial owner(s) (Decree n°2018-284 of April 18, 2018, defines the beneficial owner as, the natural person who ultimately exercises a power of control over the legal entity, through its capital holding or voting rights or the legal representative of the legal entity, in the absence of ultimate exercise of a power of control through capital holding or voting rights).

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE
2. Glossary

**AFD**: The French Development Agency is the funder of this project by the Support Fund for Feminist Organizations (FSOF).

**Lead partner (level 1)** : Non-profit organization, French and/or international and/or national civil society organization (CSO) from any country in the world (including partner countries of France's development and international solidarity policy), which signs the agreement with AFD.

**Consortium members (level 2) :** Not-for-profit organizations, French and/or international and/or national civil society organizations (CSOs) from all countries of the world, (including partner countries of France's development and international solidarity policy) structured into consortia that respond together to calls for projects and work in partnership with Recipient Entities (level 3).

**Recipient entities (level 3):** Also known as "local feminist CSOs" and "committed local social and solidarity enterprises - SSE"; these are feminist civil society organizations and social and solidarity enterprises committed to defending women's rights, from partner countries of the French development and solidarity policy, which will be financed by grant as part of the project (component 1) and will benefit in particular from capacity-building and networking activities deployed by the consortium (components 2 and 3).

**Individual Beneficiaries (Level 4):** Individual Beneficiaries in the agreement, i.e. the individuals/physical persons supported and targeted by the activities proposed in the field, and in particular by the local feminist CSOs funded as Recipient Entities (level 3).

**Feminist civil society organizations (CSOs)** : According to the FSOF's strategic framework, it is aimed at feminist civil society organizations in all their diversity, whether formally constituted or not, which aim to act in favour of gender equality and to bring about lasting change in gender-based social relations, and particularly those whose main mission is to prevent and protect against gender-based violence.

**Implementing partners**: Structures (service providers, etc.), other than consortium members, to which the implementation of certain project activities could be delegated/externalized by the consortium in compliance with [AFD's Procurement Directives in foreign countries](https://www.afd.fr/fr/ressources/directives-pour-la-passation-des-marches-finances-par-l-afd-dans-les-etats-etrangers).

1. Context and issues
2. AFD is a feminist agency that implements France's commitments on gender equality internationally

Gender equality is recognized by the international community as a necessary foundation within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 5), along with decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), eradicating poverty (SDG 1) and reducing inequality (SDG 10).

This commitment is now at the heart of France's external action: declared a Great national cause of the President of the French Republic and reiterated at the Interministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development (CICID) on 8 February 2018, equality between women and men *"will be a guiding and cross-cutting principle of France's external action and specific actions will be undertaken to promote it"*, in addition, 2019 marked the launch of a feminist international policy.

Thus, [France’s International Strategy for Gender Equality for the period 2018-2022](https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/politique-etrangere-de-la-france/diplomatie-feministe/strategie-internationale-de-la-france-pour-l-egalite-entre-les-femmes-et-les/), aimed to increase and improve the consideration of gender perspective in France’s development assistance. In this new agenda and in continuity of its Transversal Framework of Intervention on Gender Equality 2014-2017, updated by the Contract of Objectives and Means 2020-2022, AFD undertook that 55% of its commitment volume will be rated 1 or 2 according to the OECD-DAC gender equality policy marker by the end of 2022 and €600 million annually marked DAC 2 by 2022, endeavor to reach €700 million per year.

The 2021 programming law on inclusive development and the fight against global inequalities states in its Global Partnership Framework that the French government is committed to ensuring that, by 2025, 75% of annual commitments of French bilateral official development assistance have gender equality as their main or significant objective. With a view to achieving this objective, *France's* new *International Strategy for Gender Equality is currently being* drawn up and should be finalised in 2024.

On this basis, **AFD Group is asserting itself as a feminist agency**, a strong position in its 100% Social Link strategy. It aims to support and accompany local players, most often from civil society, who defend gender equality on a daily basis, in line with France's [Civil Society and Civic Engagement Strategy.](https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/2023_dos_socie_te_civile-17-03-23_cle856ac4.pdf)

To support this ambition, **France announced at the G7 meeting on gender equality in February 2019 the creation of the Fonds de soutien aux organizations féministes (FSOF)**, supported by the MEAE and AFD.

1. Support for feminist civil society organizations through the FSOF

This call for proposals is part of the [**Support Fund for Women's Organizations (FSOF**),](https://www.afd.fr/fr/fonds-de-soutien-aux-organisations-feministes) co-sponsored by AFD and the MEAE and co-constructed with women's civil society organizations.

**The FSOF, initially scheduled to run for three years (2020-2022), has mobilized 138 million euros in support of 1,000 feminist civil society organizations (CSOs) in 75 partner countries, in all their diversity, whether formally constituted or not. On the sidelines of the 2023 United Nations General Assembly, France announced the renewal of this commitment by extending the FSOF for 5 years (2023-2027) to a total of 250 million euros.**

The **FSOF is aimed** at **feminist civil society organizations in all their diversity, whether formally constituted or not, whose aim is to act in favor of gender equality and to bring about lasting change in gender-based social relations, and particularly those whose main mission is to defend and promote the effective rights and empowerment of women and girls.** While concentrating its efforts on the least developed countries (LDCs), the fund also targets feminist civil society organizations on other continents, as equality issues remain significant in all countries.

The Fund offers three financing channels:

* **AFD projects and calls for projects** aimed at feminist civil society organizations in countries that are partners of France's development and international solidarity policy, notably through intermediated funds[[11]](#footnote-11) ;
* **AFD's Civil Society Organizations (CSO) Initiatives programme** for French civil society organizations and their feminist civil society partners in partner countries;
* The **Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs**' **funding mechanism** for feminist civil society organizations in partner countries of French development and international solidarity policy, notably through the Fonds Equipe France (FEF).

This call for proposals is part of the **first funding channel.** It aims to select the consortium of CSOs that will design, implement and manage the funding mechanism (intermediated fund) and capacity building for feminist civil society organizations in the partner countries.

This is the **second call for proposals under the FSOF dedicated exclusively to the subject of gender-based violence** - some of the previous calls for projects[[12]](#footnote-12) launched since 2020 have focused on sexual and reproductive health and rights, economic empowerment, gender and climate, the Women, Peace and Security agenda and education.

1. Overview of gender-based violence and access to justice

SDG targets 5.2 and 5.3 call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, including all practices that are harmful and unworthy of human dignity, such as child marriage, early or forced marriage and female genital mutilation. In total, **at least one woman in three is a victim of physical or sexual violence during her lifetime** (WHO), with devastating and lasting consequences on the lives of the survivors and those around them.

Gender-based violence is therefore **one of the most frequent violations of fundamental human rights**, and one of the most urgent problems to be resolved if we are to consolidate fair, peaceful and egalitarian societies.

* **Definitions**

According to UN Women, **gender-based violence** (**GBV)** refers to **"*all harmful acts directed against an individual or group of individuals because of their gender identity*".** It is part of the unequal gender relations that structure our society. This expression highlights the risk of violence faced by the majority of women and girls, and by sexual and gender minorities, as a result of power imbalances and harmful norms based on socially ascribed differences between the sexes. Although women and girls suffer disproportionately from GBV, men and boys can also be victims. This all-encompassing term can therefore be used to describe violence against women and girls, as well as discrimination and violence linked to gender norms (masculinity/femininity), particularly suffered by LGBTQIA+ populations.

* **Violence against women and girls**

**Violence against women and girls is multi-faceted[[13]](#footnote-13)** , affecting several aspects of their lives and preventing them from freely exercising their rights and developing their abilities. It encompasses violence by an intimate partner or ex-partner (assault and battery, psychological violence, economic violence, marital rape, feminicide), harassment and sexual violence (rape, sexual assault, unwanted sexual advances, paedocriminality, forced and/or early marriage, harassment in the public space, cyber-harassment, incest), political violence (sexual violence as a weapon of war, obstacles to participation and to the political leadership of female candidates in elections, etc.), economic violence (discrimination in employment, discrimination against women, etc.), violence against women's rights (sexual violence, violence against women, etc.) and violence against women's rights (violence against women, etc.).They are mostly found in the private sphere, but also in the public space, whether in a professional environment or in the street. They are exacerbated in the context of crisis and conflict, where they are not only accentuated, but also become a deliberate strategy in situations of armed conflict, destroying the social fabric of the communities targeted. The reality is even bleaker for certain groups of women at the intersection of several forms of oppression: for example, women with disabilities are almost ten times more likely to suffer sexual violence[[14]](#footnote-14) .

* **Violence against sexual and gender minorities**

**LGBTQIA+ populations are also exposed to various forms of GBV,** insofar as their gender identity and/or sexual orientation are considered to run counter to dominant social gender norms. GBV against them is very poorly documented. However, the NGO Transgender Europe reports 321 transfeminicides worldwide between October 2022 and September 2023[[15]](#footnote-15) , mostly in Latin America (31% of all transfeminicides reported took place in Brazil). There have also been several reports of violence against homosexual men in Senegal, Cameroon and Kenya, where the law does not protect their rights. Most African countries criminalise homosexuality.

* **Consequences for victims**

**GBV has a major impact on the health of victims.** In addition to the physical injuries it can cause (bruises, cuts, burns, fractures, etc.), it can also cause psychological pain and have an impact on victims' sexual and reproductive health (unwanted pregnancies, premature births, unsafe abortions, STIs, etc.). They also have a **considerable impact on the mental health of victims and witnesses** (depression, anxiety disorders, post-traumatic syndrome, risk-taking behaviour, etc.). It very often leads to **social isolation** for victims, and irregular or **interrupted schooling or working life**. The consequences of GBV for victims are multi-faceted and can persist over the long term.

* **Impunity for aggressors and the role of communities**

Numerous studies have highlighted the difficulty of escaping from a situation of control created by the aggressor, which **leads to silence, shame and guilt, as well as physical and medical consequences; and the difficulty of lodging a complaint and bringing the aggressor to justice, which also raises the issue of impunity.**

**This impunity for aggressors is also conveyed by the gender stereotypes that legitimise such violence**, by attributing roles of authority to men over women, their bodies and their sexuality. In some contexts, the stigma attached to sexual violence is such that the victim is considered to be an affront to the honour of her family and/or community. This patriarchal notion can result in the social exclusion of victims or lead to so-called "honour crimes", in which the survivor is subjected to further acts of violence in order to "make amends" for the affront caused (intra-family murders, forced marriages, acid attacks, rape, torture and other physical violence).[[16]](#footnote-16) Women may also be the target of honour-based violence for having "defied" their submissive role (refusal of sexual acts, refusal of an arranged marriage) and/or for having, in a proven or unproven manner, broken honour "codes", most often linked to their sexuality (adultery, sexual relations outside marriage).

Violence against women is deeply rooted in social and cultural representations, to the point of being justified by society and internalized by women. In 7 West African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger and Senegal), on average almost half of women aged 15 to 24 consider it normal for a man to beat his wife in certain circumstances[[17]](#footnote-17) . Community involvement is a fundamental lever in the prevention of GBV, and access to justice is essential in combating impunity for perpetrators.

* **Access to justice**

**Access to justice is of crucial importance in cases of gender-based violence.** According to the OECD[[18]](#footnote-18) , it helps to provide victims with the protection, support and accountability they need. More specifically, it helps to i) protect against future harm by holding perpetrators accountable for their actions, ii) help victims obtain redress and help raise awareness of this type of violence and its impact, iii) empower victims by giving them a voice in the justice system and helping them regain a sense of control over their lives, and iv) prevent impunity for perpetrators by holding them accountable for their actions.

However, in many countries, **victims of gender-based violence face different institutional obstacles**: i) access to the judicial system is sometimes deficient (corruption, limited financial and human resources) or even absent, ii) the treatment of such violence is insufficiently adapted (lack of training of legal professionals and the police in the specific needs), iii) laws are not sufficiently protective or insufficiently enforced.

**Gender inequalities also exist in access to justice** for social, economic and spatial reasons, and in the ability of the justice system to deal with the specific problems faced by victims. What's more, while laws exist to punish aggressors, they do not sufficiently protect victims and/or witnesses.

In this context, some countries are beginning to recognize **the importance of coordinated and integrated services to help victims**, and their role in eliminating obstacles to justice[[19]](#footnote-19) . Certain holistic mechanisms such as integrated service systems make it possible to reduce the administrative burden through a coherent system and a continuum of services, particularly legal and judicial services. Civil society plays an important role in providing legal and judicial assistance to victims, organizing advocacy campaigns to publicize the work of legal and judicial services and make them accessible, and also in capacity-building for those involved in the criminal justice system (judges, court clerks, police officers).

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| **Some key figures**:   * According to UN Women data, 736 million women worldwide (around one in three) have suffered physical or sexual violence at least once, often perpetrated by husbands or intimate partners. In 2020, 81,000 women and girls were killed, more than half of them (58%) by their intimate partners or by a member of their family, which corresponds to one death every 11 minutes. In addition, 15 million girls aged between 15 and 19 have been subjected to forced sexual intercourse[[20]](#footnote-20) . * The situation of women and girls is even more vulnerable in low- and middle-income regions. In countries classified as "least developed", 37% of women aged between 15 and 49 have suffered violence at the hands of an intimate partner in the course of a year, compared with a global average of 13%. Other situations in these regions give cause for concern, given that 40 to 60% of women have suffered sexual harassment in the street in the Middle East and North Africa, and at least 200 million women aged between 15 and 49 have undergone genital mutilation in countries where the practice is carried out[[21]](#footnote-21) .   **Overview of GBV in AFD's intervention zones**  Sub-Saharan Africa has 32 of the 36 countries in the world with the highest indices of gender inequality. In **West Africa,** certain harmful practices are prevalent: the WHO estimates that 89% of women aged between 15 and 49 in Mali have undergone female genital mutilation, and this rate rises to 96% in Guinea. Early marriage and teenage pregnancy are among the main causes of girls' under-attendance at secondary school. In Niger, 76% of girls are married before their eighteenth birthday and 28% before their fifteenth. In addition, situations of political tension and crisis exacerbate the vulnerability of women and adolescents and constitute aggravating risk factors for them.  Violence against women has been the subject of unprecedented mobilization in **Latin America** in recent years, focusing on the fight against feminicide[[22]](#footnote-22) . In 2012, the Inter-American Commission of Women spoke of a "pandemic" due to the scale of gender-based violence in the region. According to the United Nations, it is the deadliest region in the world for women, with a woman dying on average every two hours. Feminist campaigns against gender-based violence have led to the introduction of the term "feminicide" in some national legislation. According to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL), 4,555 feminicides were recorded in 2019, based on official data from 15 Latin American countries and 4 Caribbean countries. Among Latin American countries, the highest rates per 100,000 women were recorded in Honduras (6.2), El Salvador (3.3), the Dominican Republic (2.7) and the Plurinational State of Bolivia (2.1).  **Impacts of Covid-19**  **In 2023, the figures are still worrying, exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis** which, partly as a result of containment measures, has intensified situations of violence against women and girls, especially domestic violence. In fact, by October 2021, 52 countries had included the prevention of and response to violence against women and girls in their plans to combat COVID-19, and 150 countries had adopted measures to strengthen services for victims of violence during this global crisis[[23]](#footnote-23) . |

Given this alarming situation, we must redouble our efforts to aim for gender equality in line with Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 16, which are a precondition for achieving all the other SDGs, by combating all forms of gender-based violence.

**We therefore need to adopt a comprehensive approach to combating GBV.** To achieve this, it is essential to **work from the outset - by working to prevent such violence - through to the aftermath - via holistic care (medical, psychological, legal and socio-economic) for victims and follow-up** (at criminal and community level). The whole chain of violence and all the parties involved, including witnesses and aggressors, must be taken into account.

1. Specific issues and challenges of this call for proposals

**The aim of this call for proposals is to give visibility to all forms of gender-based violence**, which, far from being marginal and interpersonal acts, constitute a systematic and universal source of oppression of women and girls, requiring societal debates, legislation and public policies with appropriate resources, particularly in the legal and jurisdictional fields, as well as holistic care for victims.

In this respect, the **role of feminist associations is essential in preventing such violence, informing communities, caring for victims, advocating changes in the law, and monitoring and controlling the long-term development of public policies in this area.**

In order to gain a better understanding of the issues relating to this call for proposals, in the pre-identified contexts, and to have a more precise view of the ecosystem of feminist CSOs involved in the prevention, management and monitoring of cases of GBV, a **mapping study** is being drawn up and will be shared with the consortia following their selection.

**The specific objectives** of this mapping study are:

* **To analyze the main issues and the predominant themes in the prevention of and fight against GBV and in access to legal and/or justice services**, particularly in relation to prevailing gender norms and the relevant legislative framework.
* **Identify local feminist associations and organizations that can** act as levers for preventing and combating GBV, in particular by providing medical, psychosocial and legal support for victims or by strengthening the legal and judicial players.

Attention is also paid to taking into account the **level of exposure to security risks** of members of local CSOs involved in preventing and combating GBV in the countries concerned.

This study covers the following 8 countries[[24]](#footnote-24) :

* Africa: Guinea, Kenya, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Tanzania
* Latin America: Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru

1. General framework of the call for proposals
2. Aims/objectives

**This call for proposals aims to support capacity building of feminist movements in partner countries of *France's development and international solidarity policy* and to support local feminist associations to improve their work in preventing and combating GBV, taking into account multidimensional inequality factors.**

The purpose of the call for proposals is to select two consortia of CSOs (one for each targeted geographical area). Each of the consortia will be responsible for a project covering exclusively the defined geographical area and, at a minimum, two of the four priority countries defined by AFD for each area (as specified in the section devoted to the geographical area), with a maximum/minimum of 4 countries per geographical batch.

The two projects selected will seek to demonstrate and support sustainable approaches by feminist civil society

1. Which develop actions that promote gender equality and help to prevent and deal with cases of GBV,
2. Which operate through a holistic approach, particularly in its legal and judicial dimension,
3. Who work across the whole chain with victims, perpetrators, public authorities and communities.

This support may take the form of activities in the field (including community action), advocacy, research and content production, capitalization, capacity building, experience sharing and/or networking. The priority to be given to these different elements will be determined after **identifying needs, consulting civil society and feminist CSOs** working to prevent and deal with cases of GBV (global or regional feminist networks or associations, global or regional funds supporting feminist movements, international trade union federations, feminist NGOs, etc.), international trade union federations, global and regional feminist NGOs, local feminist CSOs), and a **mapping of CSOs likely to be recipients of project funds** (via financing but also in terms of strengthening good practices and structuring associative projects) and able to carry out long-term activities. This analysis will take into account the initial mapping carried out in parallel with this Call for Proposals.

1. Approach and scope of this call for proposals
   * Intervention logic and principles

**The aim of this call for proposals is to select two consortia** that will create and implement an administrative, financial and logistical funding mechanism (intermediated fund) for national feminist CSOs in several countries:

* Global or regional feminist networks or associations (operational activities, activism, research and expertise)
* Global or regional funds to support feminist movements
* Global Union Federations
* CSO networks acting on inequalities
* Global, regional and national NGOs.

**The presence of national organizations from southern countries among the members of the consortia selected is strongly recommended.**

**The organizations receiving intermediated funding under this FSOF call for proposals will be local feminist CSOs**, whether formally constituted or not, whose aim is to promote gender equality and bring about lasting change in gender-based social relations. Particular attention will be paid to CSOs whose main mission is to prevent and combat GBV and to provide holistic support, particularly in legal and judicial matters, for victims and, more broadly, for the community, witnesses and, in some cases, perpetrators. **The CSOs that receive the targeted funds do not necessarily have to be specialists in GBV, but they must be able to act on the levers that enable gender equality to be strengthened through the prevention of GBV and the management of GBV as described above.** These CSOs will be considered as project leaders. The final recipient CSOs may include, for example

* National or regional branches of global feminist NGOs
* Associations or NGOs promoting gender equality and/or the emancipation of women or girls, and/or the defence of rights
* National feminist foundations and funds
* Multi-stakeholder thematic platforms (including feminist CSOs)
* National coalitions, networks or alliances of feminist CSOs
* Associations of women lawyers
* Associations, confederations or groups of women in an economic sector (crafts, textiles, domestic work, agri-food, sex work, etc.)
* Associations or networks of women entrepreneurs, businesswomen or company directors
* Trade unions (e.g. domestic and agricultural workers)
* Local research groups or institutes with a gender perspective
* Associations that defend and support the development of certain "key" groups (LGBTQIA+, albinos, disabled people, ethnic groups, specific migratory status, religious groups, etc.).
* Associations of young feminists, young girls or young women leaders
* Surviving women's groups
* Informal feminist activist movements, collectives or communities
* Informal women's groups

The actions to be carried out under this call for proposals will ensure, from the outset, that they are coordinated with the tools developed by AFD, the French Embassy and Expertise France in the field, and are fully consistent with the projects implemented.

**Each project must be part of a Human Rights-Based approach that is inclusive and takes into account the multidimensional factors of inequality.** Each project will take into account vertical and horizontal inequalities, particularly in certain fragile contexts targeted by the project. It will be sensitive to the specific vulnerabilities and multiple forms of discrimination and exclusion faced by certain women (with disabilities, of different sexual orientations and gender identities, immigrants, women in situations of sexual exploitation, etc.). In its operational approach, each consortium will pay attention to promote actions involving these groups, which are most at risk.

Each consortium will also pay attention to take into account the **level of exposure to security risks** of members of local CSOs involved in the prevention and fight against GBV in the countries concerned. The lead partner of each consortium must have, or at least propose the elaboration of, a policy/charter/code of conduct that takes into account the security risks to which feminist CSOs must commit. Furthermore, in order to reduce the risks of exposure and safety for members of local CSOs, the consortium responsible for structuring the local call for proposals should have or develop a methodology to ensure that the activities do not create risks for the population. The need for a discursive approach between the consortia and the project's communication team is recognised in order to guarantee a degree of flexibility for the participating organizations.

**This intermediated financing scheme will aim to create lasting change through various leverage effects:**

* A better understanding of the challenges of prevention, advocacy and awareness campaigns (particularly in terms of transforming gender norms and stereotypes) by civil society to prevent and combat GBV;
* Better identification of the nature and extent of unmet needs in terms of access to services for victims of GBV, particularly in terms of access to rights and justice services, and their impact;
* Strengthening holistic support systems for victims (concentrated services such as one-stop shops), including medical, psychosocial and socio-economic reintegration support;
* More specific and tailored support for people from vulnerable communities (aboriginal or LGBTQIA+);
* Promoting gender-transformative policies and practices, in particular to prevent and combat GBV;
* Advocacy for laws, standards and policies to protect victims;
* Strengthening and sustaining alliances between feminist CSOs working on the issue;
* Increasing the voice and representation of women and LGBTQIA+ people in their societies and with the authorities on issues related to preventing and combating GBV;
* Producing and promoting local knowledge to guide feminist action.

To this end, the **categories of actions that** can be mobilized by local feminist CSOs receiving funds (with other CSOs, communities and individuals, and in conjunction with strategic stakeholders) may relate to: making funding available; capacity building; capitalization, experience sharing and networking; research and knowledge production; advocacy, influence and political action; community action. This list is indicative and not exhaustive/exclusive.

**The call for proposals do not establish a list of activities or expected results**. However, a list of examples of activities is provided below ("Scope of intervention") for guidance.

AFD would like to see the following aspects of the choice of funded CSOs:

* Coherence between the activities funded for the benefit of the recipients of the funds, and the overall theory of change established for the project[[25]](#footnote-25);
* Sustainability of funded activities: if it is understood that the project will finance the operating costs of local CSOs, it is desirable to systematically question the logic of sustainability of activities at the end of the project. In this sense, it is expected that the projects proposed by CSOs allow to observe impacts and ripple effects beyond the project. This should be a criterion for discussion with local CSOs and assessment of projects submitted.

**An articulation will be systematically sought with existing projects on this theme in the areas of intervention.** Coordination with national actors, including state actors, donors and other non-state actors active on these issues at national and local levels should be close, so as to ensure complementarities of actions and approaches, capitalize on respective lessons learned and optimize support. Regular information will be shared with AFD headquarters and agencies with a view to strengthening the dialogue with national actors, government authorities and other PTFs as necessary. The project notes should therefore present in more detail the intervention logic and the proposed theory of change, as well as the methodology chosen by the consortium to identify the structures receiving funding.

Finally, the actions of feminist CSOs cannot be supported and considered without taking into account the field of institutional intervention and public policy. In this sense, **the anchoring of coordination bodies and public policy dialogue, as a sounding board, a target for advocacy, and a means of promoting expectations and community mobilization, should be considered as a principle of intervention**. Support will therefore focus in particular on building capacity for dialogue with the ministries.

* Geographic scope

The project must be carried out in partner countries of France's development and international solidarity policy in which AFD has a mandate to operate[[26]](#footnote-26) with the following breakdown:

The project will cover a **total of 8 countries in two geographical areas**: Africa and Latin America.

Within this framework, certain countries have been targeted as a priority by AFD with a view to complementing the initiatives identified in this area in the mapping process[[27]](#footnote-27) and within AFD's investment portfolio. This targeting is part of a dual strategy: on the one hand, to perpetuate existing activities and, on the other, to promote and support emerging feminist civil society on the issue of GBV. These countries are

* Africa: Guinea, Kenya, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Tanzania
* Latin America: Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru

Each geographical batch must therefore propose **4 countries for** this call for proposals. Each consortium must formulate an intervention proposal **covering at least 2 of the countries proposed by AFD, for each geographical area.** The consortium may extend to **2 additional countries**, taking care to ensure geographical coherence with the first two and arguing the existing links with the projects and objectives of the FSOF. This choice must be explained and justified (similarities / disparities; experience of the consortium; possible links between stakeholders, etc.), and will constitute an evaluation criterion.

Each consortium responding to this call for proposals is expected to submit a proposal detailing the mechanism for selecting and funding the recipients of the funds in each country, as well as the partnership approach envisaged and the roles and responsibilities of each consortium member.

In addition, a dynamic of exchanges of practices between the two geographies will be promoted and the consortia will have to integrate a logic of transversal capitalization within the framework of component 3 (see below). The lead CSO of the consortium will in particular have to provide the means to travel at least once during the project to each of the countries in the batch as well as to the other region targeted by the call for proposals.

* Scope of intervention

The mobilization of feminist CSOs is likely to contribute to the prevention and management of GBV in all of these **areas** (non-exhaustive):

**- Lobbying public authorities**

**- Raising awareness in communities and schools (e.g. comprehensive sexuality education)**

**- Emergency reception and accommodation for victims and medical and/or psychological care for victims**

**- Legal advice centres and other non-judicial victim support mechanisms**

**- Support for socio-economic reintegration (vocational training, entrepreneurship, etc.)**

**- Partnerships, awareness-raising, capacity-building for professionals, particularly in the health and/or justice sectors**

**- Actions with perpetrators of violence.**

**To this end, the thematic scope of this Call includes the following areas and sub-themes, on a non-exhaustive/exclusive basis:**

**= > Prevention and holistic care for victims of GBV**

* **Strengthening prevention :** 
  + **Combating gender stereotypes**: promoting inclusive messages to combat harmful norms and practices that contribute to the reproduction of GBV, promoting innovative initiatives to build positive, healthy and non-violent masculinities;
  + **Comprehensive sexuality education**: the right to control one's own body and the right to sexual and reproductive well-being (notion of consent, etc.)**;**
  + **Institutional and organizational coordination of the entire legal chain** to improve prevention;
  + **Improving the ability to report situations of violence and strengthening tools:** support for reporting services (telephone, digital services, etc.);
* **Holistic care for victims of GBV** :
  + **Improved medical, psychosocial, legal and socio-economic care** for victims (particularly through one-stop-shop models):
    - **Medical care:** dedicated staff trained in the medical care of GBV victims (identification of GBV, post-BGBV care, detection of STIs, reconstructive surgery, abortion, etc.) or able to refer them to care facilities; training of health care facility staff so that they are able to identify the signs of GBV and treat victims.
    - **Psychological care:** dedicated staff trained to provide psychological support for victims of GBV (discussion groups, body-psychology workshops, self-esteem enhancement workshops, etc.) or to refer them to care facilities; training professionals to identify signs of GBV and provide appropriate support for victims.
    - **Legal support:** dedicated staff trained in providing legal support to victims of GBV (legal aid, law courts, family justice centres) or able to refer them to support structures; reception facilities (physical or telephone reception, digital services); training for legal professionals so that they are able to provide specific, accessible and appropriate legal assistance while taking a holistic and empathetic approach.
    - **Socio-economic support:** dedicated staff trained in socio-economic support for victims of GBV (identification of vocational training courses, support in setting up businesses and income-generating activities, reinforcement of soft skills) or able to refer them to support structures.
  + **Improving access to these services** for victims (in terms of access to information, transport and mobility, financial accessibility) and increasing the number of protection solutions for victims of GBV (physical reception and accommodation solutions, childcare, etc.);
  + **Appropriate care,** particularly psychosocial care, **for witnesses of GBV,** children, etc**.**
  + **Community support initiatives** to strengthen social ties, prevent GBV and prevent the exclusion of women who are victims of violence.
  + **Measures to deal with aggressors** (exchanges, talking circles, prevention measures, etc.).

**= > Promote gender-transformative policies and practices, particularly with regard to the prevention and management of GBV,** through:

* Recognition of GBV as a **public health issue** and the public investment needed to deal with it.
* **Recognition of the specific legal needs of victims of GBV,** characterised by the interdependence of criminal, civil and other legal proceedings, and the measures taken to coordinate legal responses.
* **The promotion of comprehensive, high-quality, affordable** sexual and reproductive health **services**, emergency interventions and counselling services that are **accessible to** all victims, including those from vulnerable and isolated social groups.
* Working with judicial institutions **to** draft laws and public policies to **combat impunity for perpetrators of GBV**.
* Promoting **other models of justice based on the needs of victims (e.g. restorative justice), aimed at reparation and collective transformation.**
* Large-scale awareness-raising campaigns to **change the social norms and beliefs that underpin GBV**, and education to encourage the emergence of new models of masculinity.

**= In addition, the following areas of work can be considered as cross-cutting levers:**

* Strengthening the **capacity for action** and **basic individual and collective competencies ("life skills", *soft skills* and empowerment of women)** supporting their economic emancipation: women's **leadership**, self-esteem and confidence, speaking out, **decision-making** power/autonomy, dynamics of solidarity and **mutual aid**, self-care and awareness of the right to live free of violence
* The influence and transformation of **social gender norms** (values and beliefs that reinforce inequality, sexist stereotypes) hindering the prevention and protection of GBV victims, particularly among community leaders/decision-makers and men in general.
* The adoption of an **intersectional approach, which takes into** account the way in which inequalities and oppressions, such as those linked to age, real or supposed ethnicity, disability and sexual orientation, etc. are interwoven and give rise to specific situations of violence.
* **Strengthening and sustaining alliances between feminist CSOs** working on this issue.

**In addition, it is expected that the production of knowledge within the framework of each project and at both levels (a. at the level of the consortium and the overall steering of the initiative and b. at the level of each sub-project of the recipient structures) is based on an integrated monitoring-evaluation system, which** feeds learning throughout the project and local initiatives and makes it possible to inform decision-making in order to reorient activities if necessary, as well as occasional evaluations (mid-term and final for the consortium and the overall management of the project, final only for the sub-projects of local CSOs). The on-board monitoring and evaluation system will make it possible to identify weak signals in this area on the basis of a few "sentinel" indicators, and will seek to document the induced or unanticipated effects of activities.

**Finally, work in coordination with local research teams** (in sociology, anthropology, psychology or any other relevant discipline) is **expected to** document trajectories of change or a theme related to the action implemented by local actors on the basis of a rigorous methodology. For example, the production of monographs in order to retrace the path of girls or women accompanied through individual interviews may be proposed. This work can, but does not have to be linked to the sub-projects funded. The methods of implementation are left to the discretion of the beneficiary, on the basis of the proposals formulated in the project note and which will then be specified during the appraisal phase.

The following table provides an **indicative, non-exhaustive overview of activities that** may be carried out by women's CSO members of the consortia and/or by local CSO recipients of the funds at the level of each regional project.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Share categories** | **Examples of activities aimed at CSOs or individuals (non-exhaustive list)** |
| **Provision of financing** | * Transfer of subsidies to CSOs (for soft activities, operations, investments, equipment, etc.) |
| **Support for victims and witnesses of GBV** | * Emergency accommodation for victims of GBV * Medical and psychological care for victims and witnesses of GBV and socio-economic support (e.g. emergency financial aid) * Legal and judicial assistance for victims of GBV |
| **Capacity Building (CB)** | * Institutional and organizational RC for CSOs (strategy, procedures and structuring, fundraising and consolidating criteria for donor requirements, structuring women's/girl producers' groups, etc.) * Training for trainers (leverage/demultiplier effect) * Training for health professionals and the legal and judicial system on the care of victims of GBV * RC for survivors of GBV : * Technical and vocational training courses for survivors of GBV. * Entrepreneurship training for survivors of GBV (education, financial management, business plans, women's entrepreneurship and development of subsistence IGAs, support in mobilising resources and accessing credit, etc.). * Helping survivors of GBV to develop and implement their career plans * RC life skills for survivors of GBV: leadership and self-esteem/personal development, decision-making autonomy, public speaking, other soft skills, etc. * RC selfcare/self defence/VBG/DSSR (including prevention of early marriage and pregnancy)...   \*Sometimes transport and accommodation are also covered during the course. |
| **Capitalising, sharing experience and networking** | * Organising and taking part in feminist events/forums to share practices, help each other and learn from each other (e.g. national feminist colloquium, forum de la jeune fille, Black Feminist Forum, Forum Féministe francophone, etc.). * Leading or participating in networks/platforms/alliances of feminist CSOs and women lawyers * Networking with financiers/funders * Networking for survivors of GBV |
| **Research and production/**  **disseminating knowledge** | * Production of content and articles for online distribution * Production of studies and research * Audiovisual productions (podcasts, videos, etc.) |
| **Advocacy, influence and political action** | * Advocacy at international level for the application of international treaties on the elimination of violence against women (Istanbul Convention, Maputo Treaty, etc.). * Dialogue and advocacy with the authorities and the State (alone or through coordination platforms of feminist or multi-stakeholder CSOs), for example to increase the resources dedicated to the fight against GBV; to set up comprehensive, high-quality, affordable and accessible public services to care for victims; to develop and set up a legal and judicial pathway centred on the needs of survivors; to draw up penal reforms; to set up restorative justice initiatives, etc. * Dialogue and advocacy with economic players (companies, financial institutions, trade unions, philanthropists, etc.) to promote the economic reintegration of survivors. * Citizen mobilisation (demonstrations, petitions, etc.) * Organization of communication and advocacy campaigns (digital and media) * Media: training journalists in media coverage of gender-based violence |
| **Action/**  **awareness/**  **community mobilisation** | * Working with community leaders * Organization of community exchange and awareness-raising workshops (e.g. educational talks on gender equality, GBV prevention, the impact of GBV on communities, etc.). * Provision of secure reception areas: * Safe spaces and support for LGBTQIA+ people and women/girls who are victims of violence (care and reintegration). * Secure areas for peer-to-peer workshops and discussion groups |

1. Project Structuration

In line with the FSOF's priorities, each project should be based on the following 3 components:

**>> Component 1: Provision of flexible funding to feminist CSOs**

The funds will be implemented at the level of CSOs that have been identified by the consortium. Different funding channels may be proposed to identify CSO initiatives of small amounts (5 000€ to 250 000€). These funds will support the activities and operations of local formal or informal feminist organizations in the field. At least 60% of the total project budget should be allocated to this component. A non-competitive approach among CSO recipients will be preferred.

**>> Component 2: Strengthening the technical capacities of CSOs**

Based on an initial diagnosis of capacity building needs and the definition of a learning plan, the consortium will develop a technical training offer on the different themes of the project as well as in financial management, and will support local CSOs in the development of their strategic plan and a viable economic model. The consortium will also support CSOs in defining advocacy messages, establishing synergies with other ongoing actions, capitalizing on good practices, and developing content and communication materials.

**>> Component 3: Capitalization, sharing of practices and networking**

The activities of this component will aim at capitalizing on the differentiated expertise of the beneficiary CSOs and the mechanisms for transferring knowledge and experience between them, in order to constitute a community of practice. This component also includes a component related to communication and visibility of the project (events, etc.). Research and knowledge production activities, as well as advocacy, influence and political action are also included in this component.

1. Budget framework

This call for proposals covers a grant envelope of EUR 7.840 million (all taxes included), including the costs of the lead structure to manage the funds, including administrative costs/indirect costs (which may not exceed 12% of the total amount per lot), as well as costs related to cross-cutting activities and capitalization and action research (including 2% dedicated to inter-batches capitalization as indicated above).

**The grant may cover 100%** of the cost of the project. Co-financing will be appreciated but is not compulsory.

At least 60% of this funding will go to CSOs in the South to finance their operational activities and structural costs (component 1). The funding scheme for southern CSOs should allocate amounts ranging from €5,000 to €250,000, enabling any type of southern feminist association (subject to validation of anti-money laundering and terrorist financing due diligence) to benefit. A balance will be sought between very small amounts of funding on the one hand, and medium amounts on the other, so as to be able to support small organizations that are traditionally far removed from external funding, without however multiplying this type of support in order to guarantee the feasibility of the project in its execution.

1. Project Duration

**The duration of the project will be 4 years**, with the possibility of funding feminist civil society organizations for variable durations, depending on the sub-projects, within this overall framework. The proposal must justify the proposed duration.

1. Operational set-up
2. Funds intermediated by a consortium

**The purpose of the call for proposals is to select two consortia of not-for-profit organizations or CSOs** which will be entrusted by AFD with the financing of the Project (the entire 7.840 MEUR envelope - 3.92 MEUR for each batch) aimed at feminist CSOs in the South (recipient structures). Bidders to this call for proposals are expected to submit a proposal detailing the identification, selection and funding mechanism for sub-project leaders in the South.

**The call for projects will be open to French, national and international NGOs, structured in consortium.** The composition of the consortium, its structure and the distribution of roles and responsibilities must be specified. Agreements between members must be provided at the time of appraisal. It is specified that AFD will sign an agreement only with the lead CSO of the consortium, duly authorized (legal power) to represent the other members of the consortium (in the name and on behalf of the consortium): a complete due diligence file will have to be drawn up with regard to the lead CSO as well as with regard to each of the consortium members. It is possible for the consortium to contract with implementing partners beyond the consortium members, as long as the responsibility for the expenses is borne by the consortium. Any contracting between the consortium and implementing structures in beneficiary countries outside of the consortium will be considered as service delivery and will be subject to [AFD's Procurement Guidelines in Foreign](https://www.afd.fr/fr/ressources/directives-pour-la-passation-des-marches-finances-par-l-afd-dans-les-etats-etrangers) Countries. In the interest of efficient project management, bidders are nonetheless invited not to multiply the use of implementation services. Collaboration mechanisms should be clearly detailed in project proposals and applied procurement procedures to be submitted to AFD during appraisal.

**Local feminist CSOs receiving funding will be considered as beneficiaries of grants within the framework of retrocessions.** This funding does not generate profit (except in special cases to be validated by AFD).

1. Tasks expected of the consortia

The consortia selected will have the following main tasks:

**>> Identify the feminist civil society organizations in the target countries by region, which are active in the project area**: in its proposal, the consortium may identify organizations in countries with which it is already partnered or that it would seem relevant to involve in the scheme. However, bidders are not expected to establish a definitive list of CSOs to be funded at the proposal stage. On the contrary, the aim of this call for proposals is to attract local feminist CSOs in all their diversity, whether formally constituted or not, which are traditionally remote from funding, with particular attention paid to youth movements, which are little or not identified in the projects usually funded.

To this end, a diagnosis will be carried out at the start of the project in order to specifically establish the local players and their needs, the structures, the existing funding mechanisms and to calibrate the fund and the funding allocation methods. If similar diagnostic work already exists, it will be updated as part of this project, taking into account the preparatory mapping study carried out prior to this Call (see appendix), which includes in particular the identification of local CSOs working in this field in the countries covered.

Each consortium will define in its methodology the framing elements resulting from the diagnosis, as well as the general criteria that will be used to select local feminist CSOs, the geographical perimeter in which it would seem relevant to invest (distribution of funding) on the basis of the list of pre-identified countries, and the thematic levers or sub-sectors on which it plans to work in particular.

**>> Inform and communicate with local feminist CSOs**: inform potential fund recipients, particularly those who are furthest away from funding, about FSOF funding through a wide-ranging communication campaign. Particular attention will be paid to multilingual communication to facilitate identification and ownership. Every effort will be made to support local CSOs in responding to funding and support opportunities.

**>> To finance the projects of feminist civil society organizations on the theme in the target countries, and to ensure the proper implementation of the financing.** The lead CSO will be responsible to AFD for the accounting and financial management of the project and will produce technical and financial reports, as well as lessons learned from monitoring-evaluation and capitalization. It will control the quality of the interventions, guarantee the overall thematic and financial coherence of the projects, and in this respect, each consortium will be responsible for ensuring that the financial audits are carried out correctly.

In addition to funding one-off projects (carried out by local CSOs), where relevant, each consortium is expected to promote, **at regional or multi-country level, the deployment of strategic activities with a transformational aim** (carried out by its members *and/or in conjunction with and/or by* the local CSOs receiving the funds), such as joint thematic advocacy campaigns.

**>> Strengthen the capacities of feminist civil society organizations in the target countries** in areas that will enable them to improve the quality of their interventions, their technical capacities and their advocacy, to structure their actions, to increase their visibility and to benefit from the experience and knowledge of the members of the consortia and other beneficiaries of the funds. Capacity-building plans will be jointly drawn up and monitored. Within this framework, funding for the structural costs of local feminist CSOs may be authorised.

**>> Leading the project's sharing and capitalization work and activities**: supporting collaboration, exchanges, links and synergies at local, regional, national and transnational level between feminist civil society and women's rights organizations, sharing knowledge, organizing regional seminars, etc.

The lead CSO of each consortium is also expected to provide for mobilization and activities to encourage dialogue and the sharing of good practice: in particular, it must provide the means to visit the regions targeted by the call for proposals at least once during the project.

**>> To support research-action in the South and the production/dissemination of knowledge from a feminist and innovative perspective**, highlighting the transformative action of local feminist CSOs and thus strengthening the understanding of the issues by public authorities and civil society as a whole. In this context, each consortium is expected to encourage the production of innovative media (such as audiovisual productions like podcasts, video documentaries, etc.).

**>> Carrying out its own advocacy work at local, national, regional and international level,** where appropriate.

**>> Set up a reinforced monitoring and evaluation system**: each consortium will have to propose a system that is adapted to and integrates the strategic dimension of gender and social transformation.

**>>Defining a communication plan and ensuring its implementation**: each consortium must provide written, photo and video feedback that AFD can use in its public and/or internal communication on the project's achievements, at least during the project's launch, intermediate and final phases. The specific arrangements for public communication about the project will be the subject of specific details as the project is implemented, depending on the sensitivity of the context, so as to communicate without putting the final beneficiaries or operators at risk. In addition, proposals for promoting the results of the project in the countries of intervention, but also among French international cooperation players, will be encouraged.

The description and the roles and responsibilities of the various members of each consortium will be clearly presented in each tender with regard to these different tasks.

1. Administrative and financial aspects
2. Disbursement, reporting and audit procedures

**The funds will be disbursed in several instalments** based on requests for disbursements submitted by the lead CSO of the consortium on the basis of the project's progress (70% consumption of the previous installment) and on the presentation of the last technical and financial report and an audit of the installment to justify the expenses. This may be decoupled from the annual audit.

**The contractor will indicate in its bid the modalities of management of the funds** (modalities of disbursement to the CSOs receiving the funding) and of auditing envisaged for the CSOs.

**The contractor will have to define a system for reporting activities:** ideally a summary quarterly report as well as a half-yearly and annual report.

1. Compliance, anti-money laundering and terrorist financing (LCB-FT)

**The beneficiary entity will have to carry out due diligence on the CSOs from the South that will be financed in order to ensure that AFD financing will not be used for money laundering or terrorist activities (LCB-FT due diligence).** The fact that women's CSOs are not registered as legal entities in their country of origin is not a reason to be ineligible for grants and due diligence against them will be the responsibility of the consortium and not AFD. The beneficiary will have to specify during the appraisal the procedures and software used by each member or the wish to outsource these procedures to expert firms. In such a case, a proposal for terms of reference (ToR) may be shared by AFD with the consortium selected to recruit the service provider.

1. Schedule of Activities

**The proposal is expected to describe the activities planned for the first 6 months of the project**. These will include:

* Diagnosis of the specific problems of CSOs and SSEs in the identified countries;
* The definition of a communication and capitalization plan;
* A concept note on the action research mechanism;
* A presentation of the dynamics of mutual reinforcement between international NGOs, local feminist CSOs and the research actors;
* Communication activities with local CSOs ;
* Identification and financing of the first sub-projects.

1. Modalities for dialogue with AFd

Regular meetings will be organized with AFD (Agencies, regional departments, technical divisions at head office).

1. Expertise to be mobilised

Each consortium will propose a project management team with the following skills:

* expertise in the prevention of and fight against gender-based violence: in particular i) prevention, advocacy and awareness-raising (particularly with regard to changing gender norms and stereotypes) of GBV, and ii) holistic support for victims (medical, psychological, socio-economic) with particular attention paid to access to legal and justice services;
* Experience in facilitating transformational mechanisms, in terms of a Human Rights-Based approach, particularly in the field of preventing and combating GBV, using an inclusive approach that takes account of multidimensional factors of inequality;
* previous experience of partnerships with feminist civil society organizations, of networking and funding their activities, and of taking into account the risks of security exposure for local CSOs;
* capacity to deploy communication channels with local and community CSOs in various contexts;
* skills in community capacity building and civil society organizations, and in identifying good practice;
* previous experience in action research / capitalization (intellectual production, sharing of South-South knowledge) / advocacy, influence and political action;
* in-depth knowledge of the ecosystems in the proposed countries of operation;
* proven administrative and financial management skills over a wide range of geographical areas;
* operational skills/management of multi-stakeholder projects, including in remote areas.

1. Selection - Validation of proposals

The quality of the technical offer will be assessed based on the technical evaluation criteria detailed below.

The Proposal Selection Committee will evaluate and compare proposals, which have been found to comply with the provisions of the call for proposals.

The scoring of proposals during the selection stage will be established on 100 points according to the following scale:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Assessment criteria** | **Points** |
| **Initial diagnosis (10)** | |
| - Knowledge of the region/countries covered by the geographical focus proposed for the project :  => the ecosystem of feminist movements and organizations, in particular those working on i) prevention, advocacy and awareness-raising (particularly with regard to changing gender norms and stereotypes) on GBV and access to rights, and ii) holistic support for victims (medical, psychological, socio-economic) with particular attention paid to access to legal and justice services;  => the dynamics and issues surrounding transformational measures, in terms of a Human Rights-Based approach, particularly in the field of preventing and combating GBV and based on an inclusive approach that takes account of multidimensional factors of inequality  - Knowledge of the feminist organizations’ operating environment (legal recognition, national policies, constraints and difficulties, perception by influencers)  - Understanding the main issues involved in achieving gender equality through work to combat GBV, particularly in the legal and jurisdictional spheres, in addition to holistic care for victims, based on a multidimensional approach to inequalities | 10 |
| **Positioning of lead CSO and consortium members (15)** | |
| - Presentation of the interventions of the lead CSO and its partners in the countries of intervention  - The consortium's presence in the target countries, and its ability to expand to other locations targeted by the project if necessary.  - Local roots and the ability to conduct a local dialogue with all project stakeholders  - Established partnerships and previous experience with local feminist CSOs in the target countries, national authorities and various players in the sector, particularly in the justice sector  - Outlook for operations in the coming years (excluding AFD financing)  - The consortium's expertise and proven track record in the various fields covered by the call for proposals:  => Thematic expertise on the prevention and protection of victims of GBV, particularly through legal assistance, based on a multidimensional approach to inequalities;  => On capacity building for CSOs, particularly feminist CSOs, expertise in community communication and social change approaches;  => Experience and skills in capitalization (intellectual production and organization of seminars to share knowledge);  => Complementarity between the respective expertise of the different organizations in the consortium on the theme;  => Detailed knowledge of the ecosystems in the proposed countries of operation  - Donor experience in managing projects of a similar scale | 15 |
| **Presentation of the project (45)** | |
| **Geographic targeting**  - Relevance of the project's thematic and geographical coverage to the needs and priority issues identified in the target areas  - Relevance of the project's coverage with regard to the actions of other players and the consortium's added value  - Involvement of local communities and young people in the project  - Criterion to be prioritized: very good understanding of the issues of safe exposure of the CSO members working on this subject (from the household and family, the community or from third parties) and a dedicated system adapted to the context (existing policy/charter/code of conduct and methodology or to be developed by the consortium leader).  - Additional criterion to be prioritized: very good understanding of the issues of safe exposure (from the home, the community or third parties) for members of CSOs working on this subject and of the solutions to be provided depending on the context  - Additional criterion to be: proposal for a dynamic exchange of practices and capitalization of experience between the geographical areas of intervention. | 10 |
| **Intervention logic**  - Clear presentation of the intervention logic and the chosen methodology  - Description of the overall framework of the theory of change in order to contribute to sustainable social change, and possible geographical variations  - Detailed presentation of activities and justification of their relevance to the diagnosis and needs identified  - Presentation of the methodology that will be used to assess and manage the E&S risks associated with the projects to be funded, particularly in terms of security risks for members of local CSOs  - General schedule of activities  - Relevance of the proposal detailing the mechanism for selecting and funding local feminist CSOs in the countries of intervention  - Methodology for the overall support process (in-depth assessment phase, implementation of various activities, evaluation, etc.) with details of the methodologies for supporting local CSOs and women's movements, strategies for ensuring the sustainability of the CSOs supported and links with national authorities and international players. | 25 |
| **Capitalization**  - Relevance of the system for exchanging practices, capitalizing on experience, research-action, communication, advocacy and political influence-action  - Integration of a reinforced monitoring and evaluation system | 10 |
| **Resources deployed (30)** | |
| **Budget**  - Proportion of the budget redistributed directly to women's organisations and movements: minimum 60% (eliminatory criterion)  - Proportion of the budget allocated to indirect support and operating costs in relation to the total project budget: maximum 12%.  - Relevance of the budget to geographical and operational areas    - Relevance of the mechanism for ensuring that funding allocated to project promoters is properly implemented | 15 |
| **Project team**  - Provisional composition of the project team (dedicated team): qualifications and skills of the personnel involved in the project (see list in Article 1: General Clauses and Conditions and V. Terms of reference: Expertise to be mobilized)  - Mobilization of existing consortium teams (supervision and/or backstopping)  - Ability to conduct a dialogue with AFD representatives locally and in Paris, as well as with project stakeholders and local authorities | 5 |
| **Consortium**  - Organization of the consortium (leadership, coordination, steering and internal governance, complementarity of the players in the consortium, consistency of interventions, history of the partnership, clarity of role sharing, etc.).  - Involvement of local CSOs and youth organizations in the development, steering and implementation of the project  - The consortium's ability to coordinate and work with all stakeholders | 10 |

Tenderers are asked to provide a description of the responsibilities of the members of the team that will carry out the project within the consortium in the body of their tender, as well as the distribution of roles between the members of the consortium, and details of the budget for coordination activities. Tenderers must guarantee the qualifications and skills of the personnel involved in the project as defined in their tender.

1. Timetable and appraisal expectations

Provisional timetable :

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Steps** | **Provisional timetable** |
| Consultation meeting with CSOs | Friday March 29 2024 |
| Publication of the call for proposals | Wednesday April 10 2024 |
| Deadline for receipt of proposals | Wednesday June 5 2024 |
| Evaluation of proposals and selection of the consortium | Until June 19 2024 |
| AFD financing and signature of the agreement | S2 2024 |
| Start-up of complementary studies and analyses: mapping and diagnosis of CSOs, communication, collection of reference data, etc. | S2 2024 |
| Identification and financing of the first sub-projects | Start S1 2025 |

For the selected proposal, the supporting structure will then be invited to continue the appraisal, in close collaboration with the AFD project team leaders, and will submit a final project note, validated by all parties. This final and complete proposal should incorporate any elements resulting from a dialogue with the project team leaders designated at AFD. On this basis, the project team leaders will submit the project to the AFD project validation bodies. The training phase will include:

* Specify the expected theory of change;
* Specify the operating procedure;
* Propose concept notes for:
  1. Capitalization and equity research;
  2. Monitoring and evaluation;
  3. Identification and selection of local NGOs receiving funding;
* Finalize the administrative files;
* Prepare the funding agreement.

1. Appendices

Appendix 1: AFD countries of intervention

Appendix 2: List of AFD projects on GBV

Appendix 3: Budget notice

Appendix 4: Budget template

APPENDIX 5: Sample timeline

1. The list of countries in which AFD operates is attached. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Attach the organization's strategy document to the administrative file. This document is required to apply for a grant under a program agreement. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Attach to the administrative file the list of persons authorized to sign the agreements and any other official document for the association. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Attach the detailed list to the administrative file. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. A **politically exposed person (PEP) is** a person who holds or has held significant public office in a foreign country; for example, a head of state or government, a senior politician, a senior government official, a senior judge or military officer, an executive of a state-owned enterprise, or a political party official. Business relationships with *family members of a PEP or persons closely associated with them* present reputational risks similar to those associated with PEPs themselves. This term does not cover middle and lower ranking persons in the above categories. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Full Time Equivalent. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. This amount should be equal to the total revenues reported in the association's income statement for the year. It is not necessarily equal to the sum of the public and private resources mentioned in the following columns. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Include here all funds from public sources: grants and benefits, public funds from local, national and international sources, etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Include all funds from private sources: grants from foundations or companies, bequests, donations, etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. List here all private contributors who contribute 15% or more of the total budget of the CSO (with reference to the last annual accounts validated by the General Assembly). If it is a legal entity, provide the list of the members of the Board of Directors of this organization (name, first name, position and address) or if it is a natural person, provide his/her identity (name, first name, position and address). [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. [https://www.afd.fr/fr/fonds-de-soutien-aux-organizations-feministes](https://www.afd.fr/fr/fonds-de-soutien-aux-organisations-feministes) [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Idem [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. [Forms of violence | UN Women (unwomen.org)](https://www.unwomen.org/fr/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/faqs/types-of-violence) [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. [Women with disabilities are almost ten times more likely to be victims of sexual violence | Handicap International CH (handicap-international.ch)](https://www.handicap-international.ch/fr/actualites/les-femmes-handicapees-pres-de-dix-fois-plus-exposees-aux-violences-sexuelles) [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. [Trans Murder Monitoring 2023 Global Update - TvT (transrespect.org)](https://transrespect.org/en/trans-murder-monitoring-2023/) [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Yolande Geadeh, "Les crimes d'honneur, comprendre pour agir", *Les Cahiers de PV*, October 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Equipop, [Droits et santé des femmes à l'épreuve du covid-19, Témoignages et perspectives féministes de la société civile ouest-africaine](https://equipop.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Rapport-Enquete-Covid19.pdf) , July 2020. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. [Breaking the Cycle of Gender-based Violence: Translating Evidence into Action for Victim/Survivor-centred Governance | OECD iLibrary (oecd-ilibrary.org)](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/b133e75c-en/1/3/6/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/b133e75c-en&_csp_=ca05c8c045c1a3cc84230b6293c10c4a&itemIGO=oecd&itemContentType=book) [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. [Breaking the Cycle of Gender-based Violence: Translating Evidence into Action for Victim/Survivor-centred Governance | OECD iLibrary (oecd-ilibrary.org](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/b133e75c-en/1/3/6/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/b133e75c-en&_csp_=ca05c8c045c1a3cc84230b6293c10c4a&itemIGO=oecd&itemContentType=book)) [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. <https://www.unwomen.org/fr/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures> [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. <https://www.unwomen.org/fr/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures> [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Any murder of girls or women simply because they are women. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. <https://www.unwomen.org/fr/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures> [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. The list was drawn up by AFD following interviews with experts from civil society and academia, and consultation with AFD's regional directorates, agencies and gender focal points. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. Itself in connection with the strategic and accountability framework of the FSOF: [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. See attached list of AFD intervention countries [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. a cartographic study is being carried out in parallel with this Call for Proposals and will be shared with the two selected consortia [↑](#footnote-ref-27)